

IDAHO COMMUNITY TREES

A NEWS BULLETIN FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO AND THE IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF LANDS—COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM

News You Can Use

No. 24 Fall 2002

***Need ideas for
projects that work?***

See below and page 2

Landscaping That Teaches

The City of Pocatello is getting double - or triple — duty out of a strip of landscaping next to city hall. Thanks to a Community Transportation Enhancement grant from the Idaho Transportation Department and Idaho Department of Lands' Community Forestry Program, the landscaping beautifies the roadside at a major intersection and buffers the impact of a large parking lot. But its usefulness doesn't stop there. The buffer strip has been designed to show visitors how plant selection and maintenance can save water.

This unique site includes a walkway that starts in a typical high-water use zone (complete with turf) requiring about 18" of water per season. It winds its way through a moderate-use zone requiring 12" of water, to a low-use zone that needs only 8" of irrigation water. Interpretive signs and leaflets are being developed and will help promote the use of trees and other vegetation that require little watering yet provide a beautiful landscape. Techniques such as weed barriers beneath chip mulch and the use of drip irrigation are also part of the demonstration.

For more information, contact project coordinator Paula Jones of Three Rivers Resource Conservation & Development, 1551 Baldy Ave., Pocatello, ID 83201.



James R. Fazio

Members of the Idaho Community Forestry Council inspect Pocatello's low-water use demonstration area during the Council's summer meeting. The group is near the start of a walkway in the first of three zones that require different amounts of irrigation water.

Coordinator's Comments

Although I started my work here just five months ago, it was immediately clear to me that if there is a single word that can describe this program, it is partnerships. With Thanksgiving just around the corner, it seems appropriate to recognize a few of the many partners that have shaped and guided Idaho's community forestry program over the years. Like most successful ventures, ours is due to the cooperative effort of many individuals and organizations. As I started to

consider all the people and groups that have played key roles, I quickly realized there wouldn't be nearly enough room to mention them all. However, I do want to acknowledge some of the more active ones:

- The USDA Forest Service that provides funding and guidance for our program. Without the continued support of the Forest Service, our program wouldn't exist. Additionally, the research it funds and carries out provides us with

"state-of-the-science" information that enables us to do our jobs better.

- The Idaho Community Forestry Advisory Council, made up of representatives from many organizations and communities, provides invaluable guidance and support to our program.
- The Idaho Department of Transportation that provides funding for our Community Transportation Enhancement grant program.

- Idaho's three Community Forestry Assistants (CFA's) and the nine Idaho Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Councils that are some of our most supportive partners. Gerry Bates in southeast Idaho, Deb Cook in the southwest and Sue Izard in the north central and panhandle areas, work under contract through the RC&Ds, implementing the program on the ground. If

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Taking Our Message to Where it Counts

One of the great challenges to all who know the value of trees in our communities is trying to influence others who potentially impact those trees. Planners, developers and contractors are such groups. They can build *with* trees or they can destroy them or, almost as bad, convert beautiful, mature landscapes into mutilated trees or anemic settings with tiny trees and sparse, thirsty vegetation. Information and education can make the difference.

Mike Bowman, Lewiston's city forester, recommends that tree people take their message directly to the people who build for a living. As an example, he recently published an item called *The Urban Forest - 'Fluff' or Infrastructure?* directly in "Contractor's Newsletter." This highly targeted newslet-



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Field Offices

North Idaho: Sue Izard, C. F. Ass't., Clearwater RC&D Council, P.O. Box 9576 (Federal Bldg.), Moscow, ID 83843. Ph. 208/882-4960 ext. 4.

Southwest Idaho: Debbie Cook, C. F. Ass't., 120 Eastway Dr., Boise, ID 83702. Ph. 208/385-7197.

Southeast Idaho: Gerry Bates, C. F. Ass't., 2445 John Adams Parkway, Idaho Falls, ID 83401. Ph. 208/522-5964.

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ter is put out by Lewiston's Community Development Department. Mike's article makes an argument for why trees should be considered part of "the basic installations and facilities on which the continuance and growth of a community or state depends." He also points out that research shows that consumers prefer to shop at stores that are landscaped and have shaded parking lots, and that the tree canopy in Lewiston removes some \$60,000 worth of particulate matter each year. Mike concludes by challenging the construction industry with: "Is the urban forest worth the trouble to plan, plant and maintain? Many other communities all over the country are gaining great economic and social benefits from a sustainable urban forest. Do we want to 'bank' these benefits or is the urban forest 'fluff'?"

Perhaps you can also help to take the message of tree values and tree care to groups like planners, developers and contractors. It will have far more impact than the proverbial preaching to the choir.

(Comments continued from page 1)

your community hasn't touched bases or worked with these folks, you really should. They can provide information and technical assistance and help your city develop or improve your tree management program.

- Dr. Jim Fazio and the University of Idaho for managing, writing and publishing this newsletter.
- Organizations such as the Pacific Northwest Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture, the Association of Idaho Cities and the Idaho Nursery As-

Boy Scout Makes Significant Impact on City Improvement

"This park is one of the most visible in Moscow and is making an extremely good impression on both visitors and residents. (We) have rarely seen a small project have such a large impact and so quickly." So wrote Idaho Community Forestry Council members Jim Fazio



Sue Izard

Mark Kudrna's Eagle Scout project has become one of the most beautiful and visible sites in Moscow, Idaho.

and Mike Bowman in a letter to the City of Moscow urging that a new mini-park in a high traffic area along Highway 95 be named "Eagle Scout Park." "The name we propose would not only acknowledge the primary reason this (new) park exists, but would also recognize the many other projects that have been done in and around Moscow over the years via Eagle Scout projects," they wrote.

To date, the new name has not been adopted, but the trees and rich floral display at the city's south entrance stand as a tribute to the efforts of Mark Kudrna, the young man who orchestrated its planning and development. Funds for the project came largely from the Idaho Department of Lands' Community Forestry grant program. City Forester Roger Blanchard assisted Mark in the landscape design and added irrigation. Moscow Tree Committee Chair David Rauk provided technical advice, and volunteers from throughout the community helped with planting scores of trees, shrubs and flowers.

The beautiful site is a good example of what can be done with grant money when community leaders and volunteers join efforts — especially when led by a Boy Scout in pursuit of the Eagle award!

sociation, whose help, educational programs and support have made community forestry efforts in Idaho stronger and more effective.

- U.S. Bank for co-sponsoring our Arbor Day Grants program from 1998 through 2001. (Note that we are looking for a new sponsor for 2003.)
- Craig Foss and Del Jaquish, the folks most recently filling this position, for taking the program to ever higher levels; and Community Forestry Program Assistant Joyce

Jowdy, whose knowledge and expertise of the grants process and the community forestry program keeps us on track.

- And finally, to all of you who are not mentioned here but who have dedicated your time, knowledge and passion to making our communities better places to live. You are the backbone of community forestry in Idaho.

— David Stephenson
Community Forestry Coordinator

Idaho Ranks High in Tree City USA Awards

A compilation of Tree City USA data for 2001 from The National Arbor Day Foundation places our state in a very favorable spotlight. Here are the findings from among approximately 2,700 Tree City USA communities nationwide:

- For new Tree City USA awards (7), Idaho tied with Wisconsin for 3rd in the nation but was first among all western states.
- Idaho ranked 4th in the West in total Tree City USA awards, behind only California, Colorado and North Dakota. Nationwide, we rank 21st with 50 award-winning communities. Although not included in the summary data, percentage-wise (approx. 25% of all our municipalities), Idaho must be near the highest number in the nation.
- Idaho ranked 8th in the nation for total number of Tree City USA Growth Awards (17). This award is for communities that exceed the basic Tree City USA standards. Among western states, only California had more.
- Idaho ranked 3rd in the nation for the number of communities winning the Tree City USA Growth Award for the first time (4).

According to Idaho Community Forestry Coordinator Dave Stephenson, "While only one measure of a program's strength, Tree City USA designation is nonetheless a good indicator of the relative success of a state's overall effort in caring for its community trees. Hats off to our community forestry assistants - Gerry Bates, Deb Cook and Sue Izard - for their work in helping communities build sustainable tree management programs. They are making a significant, positive difference!"

Application Deadline is Near!

All new and re-applications for a Tree City USA award are due in the Idaho Community Forestry office (see masthead) on December 13, 2002. If you have not received an application form, please phone David Stephenson or Joyce Jowdy right away at 1/800/432-4648.

Calendar

November 13-14

Pacific Northwest Utility Vegetation Management Conference, Valley River Inn, Eugene, OR. (Contact ISA-PNW office, 800-335-4391 or www.pnwwsa.org/UVM02.pdf)

December 13

TREE CITY USA APPLICATIONS DUE in Coeur d'Alene office of IDL.

January 21, 2003

Idaho Community Forestry Advisory Council Meeting, Safari Best Western, Boise. (Contact: David Stephenson at 208-666-8621 or communitytrees@idl.state.id.us)

January 22-24, 2003

Idaho Horticulture Show, Boise Centre on the Grove, Boise, ID. (Contact Ann Bates, Idaho Nursery Association, at 1-800-INA-GROW or www.inagrow.org/calendar)

January 28, 2003

Proper Tree Planting and Stem Girdling Roots (pre-conference workshop - see next calendar item), Spokane Community College, Spokane, WA. (Contact Jim Flott at 509-363-5495 or capps.wsu.edu/ttlc/default)

January 29-30, 2003

Inland Northwest Turf, Tree & Landscape Conference, Coeur d'Alene Resort, Coeur d'Alene, ID. (Contact Tonie Fitzgerald - WSU Extension Horticulturist at 509-477-2048 ext.2164 or capps.wsu.edu/ttlc/default)

Upcoming Arborist Certification Exam

November 9, Wilsonville, OR

For information or to register, contact: Pacific Northwest Chapter, International Society of Arboriculture at 503/874-8263 or 217-355-9411 or email: info@pnwwsa.org.

Meet a Council Member...



James R. Fazio

Gene Gray of Payette has long had an interest in Idaho's trees and other natural resources.

The Idaho Community Forestry Council is made up of 16 representatives from throughout the state who have an interest in the welfare of community trees. Gene Gray of Payette, Idaho, is just such a person. Gene has enjoyed a circuitous route to his current work with trees and other urban vegetation. He majored in wildlife management, receiving a B.S. and master's degree from the Uni-

versity of Idaho. He then worked in wildlife habitat research and as a ranger in Yellowstone National Park, but his career was interrupted with service in Vietnam as a Marine. When he returned, he got into the insurance business where he has worked ever since.

Despite drifting away from his career in natural resource management, Gene's love of plants never ended. In

1998 he became the first chair of Payette's tree board and helped achieve the city's first Tree City USA award in 2000. Gene is a valued member of the Idaho Community Forestry Council and helps with grant selection, policy decisions and public education about tree care.



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Tree tip

There Are Many Ways to Protect Your Street Trees

It is a marvel that trees should live to become the oldest living things.

Fastened in one place, their struggle is incessant and severe.

— Enos Mills, Early Twentieth Century Naturalist

Street trees in some sections of a city are often vulnerable to vandalism or accidental damage from bicycle chains, snow blowers and vehicles. As can be seen in the photo, Boise officials have found an innovative way to protect some of their trees while at the same time providing a rest facility for shoppers and other pedestrians. Other ways to protect the thin, inner bark layer of your trees — the very life support system of a tree — include:

- Planting the tree far enough from the curb to prevent bumper damage
- Metal tree guards or stakes around young trees (with removal scheduled after a few years of tree growth)
- Wide mulch zones around the trunk.
- Compatible ground cover or shrubbery (that does not require annual soil disturbance)



A bench along a Boise street serves pedestrians while protecting this young tree.

James R. Fazio